

OAKLEY BOWLERS

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CHRONICLE



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ISSUE 2

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FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT - LESLEY ALLARD

THE CLUB'S FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



The Club's 40th Anniversary celebrations this year, masterminded by President Peter Bown, started off with a hugely successful Garden Party in the grounds of the Malsanger Club. The weather was perfect and the gardens of Malsanger House, opened by kind permission of Jamie Colman, were much admired. All who came enjoyed the afternoon tea, Pimms and strawberries, laid on by Sandra Lee and her team of ladies (the Pimms by Ric Newson!). The musical entertainment by the Steventon Ukulele Band and 'Musicality', a trio of singers, Teresa Webb, David Allard and Bryn Hughes, accompanied by Paul Wright, sang popular songs from the Shows. The whole afternoon made a profit of about £1000 for Club funds. Two energetic little girls won nearly all the prizes for the competitions, illustrated later, and the bottles of wine, kindly donated by our sponsor, Eight Wealth Management, had to be substituted for £5 notes which Ric just happened to have to hand! Well done girls!

Our new Anniversary gates to the green were completed just in time for the Celebration game with Friends of English Bowling. By the end of the day they really did feel like our friends. Some had travelled more than 100 miles to play with us. They enjoyed a great buffet lunch followed by an evenly matched game which finished at 117 shots each. After the game we all enjoyed a super meal laid on by Sandra Lee and her team. (pictures on [friendsofenglishbowling website](http://friendsofenglishbowling.com)). As seen in the photograph above, the Friends presented the club with a framed certificate to celebrate what has been a superb 40th Anniversary Celebration. Unfortunately, President Peter has resigned his duties as he is unwell and we wish him all the best and hope that he will be back with us again next year.

Thank you everyone who helped to make the Celebrations memorable.

Captain's Log

from Barry Lee, Men's Captain

BARRY'S BANTER



Well this is the second report to the members from me the first being April. I was so pleased to see the first two friendly sheets full a few days after our opening spoon drive.

We had the 5 Triples and 2 reserves ready to go to Hawley on Sat 12th May, but sadly on the Tuesday of that week I had a phone call to say it will have to be cancelled as they only had 8 players. (not a good start). Our next Friendly was against Reading with a full team of 5 mixed rinks at home. It was a nice afternoon but we lost overall by 61-134 Ruth Bown,

John Yarrall, Mike Baxter, Mary Turnbull only lost by 5 shots. Our next Friendly was also at home with our friends from Great Hollands, 6 full rinks playing on a very warm day on the 26th May, we lost overall but had 2 winning rinks, Barry Lee, Angie Rowe, Ian Rickman, Lesly Allard (+9) and Jim Fitzgerald, John Ryan, Linda Smith, Pat Fitzgerald (+5). Our 4th friendly on 2nd June was against Waterloo BC another very warm day at home again 6 full rinks and yes we lost overall again 82-115 but 1 winning rink of Peter Bown, Mary Varndell, Dave Ball, Linda Smith (+14) and another good happy afternoon. Our first away game was on 3rd June to Basingstoke Town, again 6 full rinks I have recorded a hot day, good meal and good fun. Yes we lost overall again apart from 1 rink Jim Fitzgerald, Sandra Lee, Brian Chamberlain, Diane Yarrall (+4).

The 6th Friendly was Sunday 10th June at home against Leigh Park. Another hot day with 5 mixed Triples and yes we lost again only by 23 shots and 2 winning rinks Jo Holland, David Gunton, Ian Rickman. (+8) and Claire Flannigan, Paula Taylor, Frank Tuffs. (+1). The 7th game was at home against Thatcham quite a strong team so yes we lost again, This was the first friendly for Alf McCarthy and Anji Smith, who only joined this year, there was several other fairly new bowlers I hope they all enjoyed playing. Only 1 rink got close to winning, it was a draw of 17 all for Janie Vickers, Dave Clewer, Ian Rickman, Linda Smith. (3rd time for Ian).

The next Friendly which was against Farnborough I had to cancel because of lack of names. The Senior members will say "The Friendlies are the Backbone of any Club". I have had to ask the Secretary Spencer 3 times this year to put out a plea for me to encourage more names to be put on the lists and I saw only last night the Friendly against Loddon Vale Indoor Club and Lymington BC are still short of Players. Please help me !!!.

Now for some happy news, our First win of the Season. 24 Bowlers drove to Three Mile Cross (near Reading) a lovely venue for a 6 mixed rink game against them on a very hot day and 4 out of 6 rinks won !! with a 108 to 94 score +14 "Yeah", Well done Valerie Ryan's rink, (+5) Barry Lee's rink (+15), Keith Turnbull's rink (+5), Ruth Bown's rink (+1). After the game we all tucked into a Hot Pastie beans and potatoes followed by a Choc ice. A good happy friendly club.

On Sunday 8th July while I was enjoying Sir Michael's 90th Birthday party in a Lavender field with some 250 others 5 Mixed Triples travelled to Tilehurst BC (also near Reading) to a happy afternoon where, Yes you've guessed we lost overall, 52-113 but a fantastic win on 1 rink by (+19) shots for John Ryan, Mike Baxter, Pat Fitzgerald. A very nice meal after the game was had and all enjoyed.

This Tuesday 17th July at home Oakley Bowlers Celebrated our 40th year with very nice people “The Friends of English Bowling”. 6 Mixed rinks played on a very neat green for the afternoon and the result was-----a Draw 117-117 but very well done to rink 6 who won by (+24) Ric Newson, Jim Fitzgerald, Anji Smith, Sue Dixon. It was a fantastic day which was run by the Vice President Lesley Allard.

Our next Friendly is at Crofton (Stubbington), Unfortunately we have only 20 names so I have informed Crofton of that so it may be 5 Rinks. And the next one is a home game against Woolston & District which is a full 6 rinks with bacon sandwiches for the early arrivals.

Just to ask again, the Club will not survive without your help with the Friendly games please put your names down on the team sheets. That's it you have had enough of my rabbit.

Many thanks for your help.

! YARDSTICK !

It will soon be time for Yardstick to commence and I look forward to seeing many of you on Tuesday and Thursday evenings enjoying yourselves.

The first evening will be **Thursday 9th August** and then on every following Tuesday and Thursday until the final game which will be on **Thursday 13th September. There will be no Yardstick on Tuesday 28th August due to this being the last day of our Club Tour to Forest of Dean.**

Please read the notice in the Clubhouse for further details of dates and times.

Spencer's Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



The last few weeks have been difficult ones as the Club suddenly faces a future without such stalwarts as Peter Bown, Trevor Wearn and John Wilson. All of these gentlemen did a huge amount for the Club, often unnoticed. In addition, a new auditor will need to be appointed before the AGM as John Ford (after 5 years in the role) has had to retire on health grounds. The Committee is now having to sort out arrangements to ensure that there is future coverage for all the important tasks they did. Please bear with us if in the immediate future there are some hiccups.

Congratulations to Nicole Rogers who played in the England Junior International team that won the British Isles International Series for the ninth successive season.

The Car Boot sale raised £411. Thanks to those who contributed items and to those who arose early to attend the Sale.

Congratulations to Heather Statham and Nicole Rogers on playing for Hampshire in the Walker Cup and Johns Trophy, to Ruth Bown in the Johns and Ashley Nethercliffe in the Middleton Cup.

LESLEY'S LOG-IN

From Lesley Allard, Almoner and Vice President



Since the last Chronicle we unfortunately lost Past President John (Jocky) Wilson, a dedicated Club member, who will be sorely missed, both on the green and behind the bar. Our sincere condolences were sent to Vera and John's family. RIP John.

Our green keeper Trevor who was in St Michael's Hospice very sadly passed away on 23rd July. Our sincere sympathy and thoughts go out to Coral and the family.

Past President Rita Meakin is still recovering from her shoulder operation. We wish her well and hope to see her soon.

Best wishes to Ruth Stewart who is still just well enough to order Peter around while shopping in Sainsburys!

It is good to see Eric (smiler) Lamkin back on the green and hoping to start playing in the Whitchurch league team very soon.

!Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to Nancy Goosey who was 90 last month and cannot understand how she got to be that age so soon. Keep smiling Nancy!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Roger and Lorna Coombs who celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary next month.

If you know of any member who is unwell or celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary, please let me know and I will ensure that they receive greetings or best wishes from the Club.

PS. I still have vacancies for my Tour to Norfolk next year at August Bank Holiday and would be delighted if more members would come for a friendly weekend of friendship and bowls in a very nice hotel. All transport provided by Mervyn's coaches.

LADIES SECRETARY

From Janie Vickers



We are now well into the season with many of our ladies playing in friendlies, along with outside and club competitions.

Firstly congratulations to Nicole on being selected for the England Junior Team to play in the British Isles International Series.

Also congratulations to Ruth, Nicole and Heather for their selection for the Johns Trophy team.

In the BH games Nicole and Heather reached the area finals in the two wood and four wood respectively and together in the pairs.

We exited the Top Club to Cove and the Mixed Top Club and Thornbery to Alton Social .

Thanks go to Mary for keeping us up to date with the results.

All the results have been circulated on the Ladies Google Group.

In the NH games some members progressed well throughout the season and good luck to those still standing.

We have a Gazette Cup game versus Cove on 25th July.

Oakley ladies have also been well represented in BH and NHWBA friendlies.

The ladies friendly versus Hawley provided a win for Oakley and an enjoyable afternoon for all those taking part.

Some of our ladies also played a friendly against the Amy Rose team and with our 40th anniversary friendly against The Friends of England Bowling it has been a very busy season so far.

We are now looking forward to the tour -----and enjoy the rest of the season.

Drawn Fours Competition

From Kay Kerley, Competition Secretary

As you know the Drawn Fours Competition was cancelled through lack of numbers and has now been re-arranged for **Wednesday 5th September with a 10.00am start.**

The teams are drawn prior to the day and are selected into the positions I believe people would play in, therefore you will not have four novice players playing together. Depending on numbers it is played on a round robin basis staying in the same teams to a completion, subject of course to weather conditions. These are played in a light hearted way, although still a little competitive, and are regarded as good social occasions. Not many years pass without an inexperienced bowler being in the winning team. This year Wendy Lowin won in the Pairs.

Why not have a go and put your name on the sheet in the Clubhouse.

Catering Update

From Sandra Lee

I do hope those of you have played in Friendlies have enjoyed the food we have served. Thank you to all the sandwich makers and cake makers without whose help and support we would not be able to put on a such a nice spread to be enjoyed after the game. Some of you who regularly play Friendlies will notice we have introduced a few changes in the food and we in the Catering Team hope you are willing to try something different.

We are continuing to add new selections and hope you will enjoy these.

That First Ever Friendly Experience!

From Anji Smith

When Facebook throws an advert at you and you think ‘I’d like to try that’. I’ve not been sporty since the day I left school and threw my hockey stick in the bin (Dad retrieved it and saved it for the fire in the winter!) but somehow the thought of playing bowls seemed a good idea. Meeting people, getting out of the house and actually doing something rang a bell in my head. Off I trundled to the Open Weekend and fell in love with the game at the first roll of a bowl. 4 weeks later after completing the last of the training sessions there was Barry, sat there on the side of the green with notebook in hand and those famous words ‘I’m a couple of players short for the friendly next week, are you available?’ With a quivering voice I said yes and then wondered what on earth I was letting myself in for.

I turned up in whites for the game, against Thatcham, but when I pulled into the car park to see people looking very professional in shirts which weren’t ours I could easily have turned round and gone home. But I couldn’t let the club down so I strolled in probably looking the part but a quivering wreck underneath the façade. ‘It’s only a friendly’ was mantra of the day but I still felt I would be letting the club down if we lost. Everything was so different to what I had expected but everyone was so encouraging and supportive I started to relax. Even more when I found out that Chris, my mentor, was playing on the same rink as me. At least I knew there was someone there to hold my hand and keep me going.

Handshakes all round and the game was under way with me playing lead. ‘Don’t worry’ I was told, it doesn’t matter where your bowls end up as lead because the next players will move them anyway. Phew! But then came the realisation that as lead I would have to place the mat & jack. Having spent 4 weeks attempting to get the bowls to go out at an angle so they could swing in, the challenge suddenly became how the heck do I get the jack to go in a straight line to the right distance. Too short, too long, and at one point I decided we were going to play on the next rink! However, I didn’t need to worry on that score – I really did enjoy the pushing the bowls gatherer and became quite an expert!

Once I relaxed into the game and came out of my crumbling shell I realised just how friendly a friendly game is. Everyone, including Thatcham, was so helpful giving me tips and advice, chatting and mickey taking that I soon realised I was playing a game. Not a match, not a competition, not a reputation to uphold. It was a GAME. An opportunity to practice with experienced players, to learn from them. But most importantly was discovering that on that day I became a bowler.

Hospice Cup Continues to Thrive

From Keith Turnbull

Most people know this as the “Monday Afternoon Spoon Drive”, but its official title is “The Hospice Cup”. Its origins lie in the mists of time, but I have been involved since Mary and I joined the club in 2010, when we were advised to take part in it by our coaches and mentors. They were dead right – it turned out to be the perfect opportunity for new members to socialize and get a taste of competition; for older members to continue bowling when they felt they no longer wanted to take part in the top levels as much; and for all members to get their eyes back in before the cut and thrust of the new season’s challenges began. At that time it was run by Gladys Fowles – a forbidding but lovely lady whose mission, it seemed, was to provide help and guidance to new members on the subtleties of bowls etiquette and protocol (whether they wanted it or not!). She was also a pretty good bowler herself. Gladys moved to Gloucestershire in 2015 and is still an active bowler at her local club and a member of the local W.I.

I took over the reins at the end of the 2015 season and I’m pleased to say that the popularity and support has continued to thrive. One of the main aims of the Spoon Drive is to raise funds for the local St Michael’s Hospice. Over the years several thousand pounds has been donated from the proceeds of the Spoon Drives. Last year alone, the sum donated was over £600.00. You might not know, but the club donates £1.50 of every £2.00 weekly subscription to the Hospice. The remainder covers the cost of tea and biscuits (which is, I understand, one of the other main reasons for attendance).

Running the afternoon – especially when we get the high attendances at the start and end of the season – can be a challenge, especially when members turn up late, or forget to register when they arrive, or decide to leave just as the allocations are about to be made without having let me know beforehand. Regular attenders will no doubt have seen me muttering darkly while collecting the tokens in order to re-calculate the rink composition and adjust the bag of tokens before re-commencing. However, I wouldn’t change anything – the afternoon is always friendly and relaxing. Preparing for, and clearing up after, the tea break is also one of the highlights of my afternoon. Fortunately members have finally stopped offering to wash up for me, accepting that the dishwasher does the work (assisted by thoroughly rinsing the cups first as the dishwasher is not totally reliable at getting off tea stains).

Competition for winning the trophy at the end of the series is usually quite fierce, but there are a dozen or so regulars who are usually in contention throughout the season. I actually introduced a weighted scoring system a couple of years ago, to reward members who turn up regularly to support the Hospice. This was done because one season a few years ago one member only showed up twice in the season and each time had an unusually high score and was in danger of winning the trophy against the stalwarts snapping at his/her heels. In fact since the new scoring system was introduced, the top 3 bowlers every year would have been in the same order with or without the new system.

The main feature of the Hospice Cup afternoons is the wonderful mixture of bowlers old and new who turn up (often in pouring rain, heatwaves or freezing cold) to support the club and the charity, who use the occasion to brush up their bowling skills in a better environment than a roll-up, and who enjoy my excellent tea and biscuits.

Long May It Continue

GARDEN PARTY

From Dave and Joan Ball



As you know we all enjoyed the garden party and in particular my two granddaughters. The younger one Clara who is only five took great delight in beating Jim Fitzgerald at target Bowls.

Here is a photo that was taken when Clara said to her daddy, could I have a photo taken with the man I beat.

I am sure Jim will be pleased to be reminded that he was beaten fair and square by a five year old with a broken elbow!

The Lead's Lament

From Roger Coombs

In days of old when I had reached the dizzy heights of Skipping, Linda Poynter happened to be my lead on one occasion. During the game, contrary to all given wisdom about leaving the Lead to play his/her game, I ventured on one end, twixt her first and second woods, to request her to change her hand. A few days later I received this little tale through the post in verse form. Such a talented lady! I have called it The Lead's Lament.

The Lead's Lament by Linda Poynter

If you are a League Lead Bowler
And on the mat you stand
Don't be surprised if you hear
A cry of "Change your hand"!

You may have been ready to deliver
With your arm in its backward swing
You may have looked to your Skip for instructions
And heard him not utter a thing.

So you do as your told, without question
The bowl leaves your hand, at a pace
But when it has finished its journey
It ends up in the very same place.

The moral of this is quite simple
You can do just the best that you can
You may have seen where you wanted to finish
But, you may need to "Change your hand".

1988

From Chris Lee

Oakley Bowling Club was now well established in its home on Malshanger estate. The Club was about to enter its teens, yet when you look at what it was going to achieve over the following years, it was certainly much more mature than its age implied.

Over the next few years, Kay Kerley was to become HCWBA President, and amongst the many Honours which Club members would achieve, the 3 names Mary Taylor, Ruth Bown and Kay Kerley would feature prominently.

Elsewhere, one 'change' which occurred was the withdrawal of the £1 note, leaving only the £1 coin as legal tender. There were also 2 licensing changes: dogs no longer needed one, and pubs could open all day.

The 10 years since 1978 don't seem to have helped the British film industry, with few films likely to be remembered, though some of you may recall:

Buster with Phil Colins & Julie Walters

A Fish Called Wanda with John Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis & Michael Palin

With music however the biggest hit of 1988 was Kylie Minogue and her debut 'I should be so lucky'. She has been with us ever since.

In 1988 we said goodbye to the singer Roy Orbison, the racing driver Enzo Ferrari, and actor Kenneth Williams. The spy Kim Philby, John Stonehouse the former government minister who had previously faked his own death, and actor Jimmy Edwards famous for his moustache also left us in 1988.

1988 was also the year of birth for many athletes, and some you may know include:

Jason Kenny, track cyclist

Tyson Fury, boxer

Billy Twelvetrees, rugby player

Lizzie Yarnold, skeleton (hurtling down an icy track head first on a teatray)

Finally, in bowls, pipe smoking David Bryant was still there, wining the Men's World Outdoor Bowls Championship singles.

Tuffs Teasers

from Frank Tuffs

Flower Anagrams - Find the hidden flower, how many can you find before looking at the answers?

1. In late plot
2. One name
3. A big one
4. Boil ale
5. A lune camp
6. Grim load
7. In a cover
8. A nut pie
9. Air lump
10. A hut scan
11. Slit came
12. And hit us
13. Worn pods
14. Pat has a gun
15. Mule hid pin
16. Plus ton hay

Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all"

(J.K. Rowling, British Author).

"Never give up. No one knows what's going to happen next."

(L Frank Baum, Author (1856-1919).

Songbook

I received another item of great interest from Roger along with his Lead's Lament and hopefully one or more of our members may be able to shed some light on this. Roger has provided me with a song book that was used on a tour unfortunately he cannot recall which tour. I have copied a couple of the songs and look forward to hearing from anyone who can recall not only the tour but remember singing along to these and many more songs

To the Tune of: After the Ball is Over

After the bowls are over
After the day is done
See all the folk so weary
After the battle is won
Many a foot is aching
Many a tired soul
Next day you'll see them running
After the bowl.

To the Tune of: Daisy

Jack, Jack, Jack, Jack elusive and hard to woo
I'm half crazy, trying to get near to you
Although I endeavour to kiss you
The more my bowls seem to miss you
And its quite on the cards
That I'm not within yards
When I ought to be cuddling you.

Tuffs Teasers - Possible Answers

1. Potentilla
2. Anemone
3. Begonia
4. Lobelia
5. Campanula
6. Marigold
7. Veronica
8. Petunia
9. Primula
10. Acanthus
11. Clematis
12. Dianthus
13. Snowdrop
14. Agapanthus
15. Delphinium
16. Polyanthus